



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

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**RE: UNITED STATES v. KIRK SNYDER**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that, in the first case of its kind brought in the Western District of New York, Kirk Snyder, 54, of 418 Court Street, Salamanca, New York, pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy before Chief United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara based on a large-scale, three year long scheme to smuggle untaxed cigarettes to retail stores in the Detroit and Buffalo areas and to downstate New York through a Native American Smoke Shop located on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Gowanda, New York.

Snyder, one of the principal salesmen for the A.D. Bedell Company, Inc., admitted to participating in a scheme to provide large quantities of untaxed cigarettes to the smoke shop, knowing that the cigarettes were destined for smugglers. The Government estimated that over 2,000,000 cartons of cigarettes were sold by A.D. Bedell and Snyder to smugglers in this fashion, resulting in the States of New York and Michigan being deprived of millions of dollars of tax losses.

Last week, the president of the A.D. Bedell Company, Page Martin, along with the

company itself, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy. As part of its plea, the A.D. Bedell Company surrendered \$3 million to the Clerk of the Court which will now be held until sentencing when Judge Arcara will determine what portions of those funds will go toward a fine or toward restitution or be forfeited to the United States. Mr. Battle noted that this \$3 million was largest monetary penalty paid by a corporation in a criminal case in the Western District of New York.

The lead prosecutor in this case, William J. Hochul, Jr., stated that this case successfully identified and dismantled a clandestine world of black market cigarette smuggling.

Snyder, who is cooperating and who has agreed to testify in the February trial of the remaining alleged smugglers, faces a jail sentence which will be determined by the Court.

The case against Kirk Snyder and 31 other co-defendants was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Resident Agent in charge David DeJoe, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigative Division, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Erie County and Niagara County Sheriffs Offices, the Buffalo Police Department and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Office of Tax Enforcement under the direction of Deputy Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Peter Farrell. Mr. Hochul credited the outstanding and long-running efforts of all of the agents for the success of the prosecution to date, which has thus far resulted in 16 convictions and millions of dollars in forfeiture recoveries. The case is being

prosecuted, along with Mr. Hochul, by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce and Special Assistant United States Attorney Uri M. Myerson.

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